

April 27, 1945

Copper Commando - vol. 3, no. 18

Victory Labor-Management Production Committees of Butte, Anaconda and Great Falls

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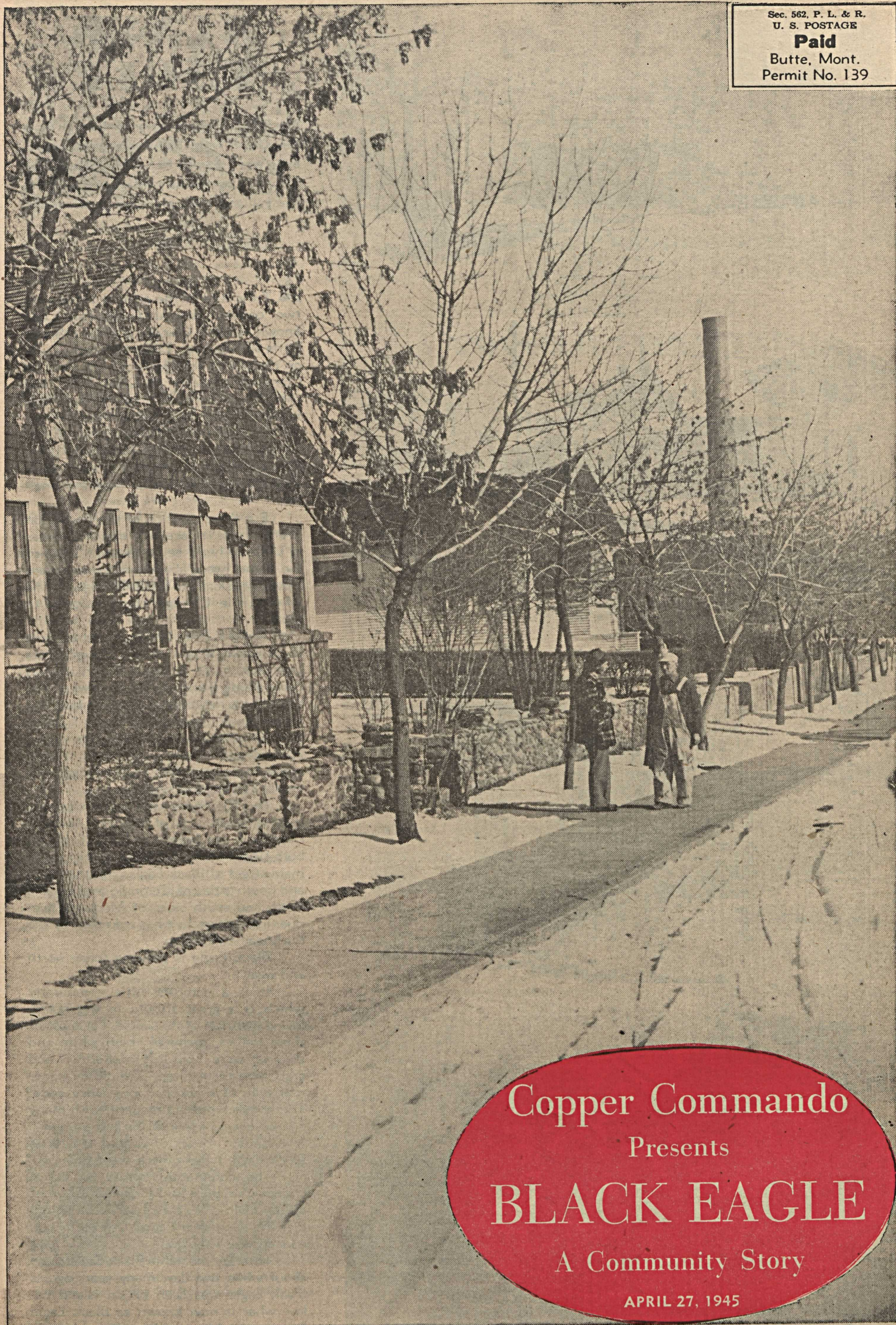
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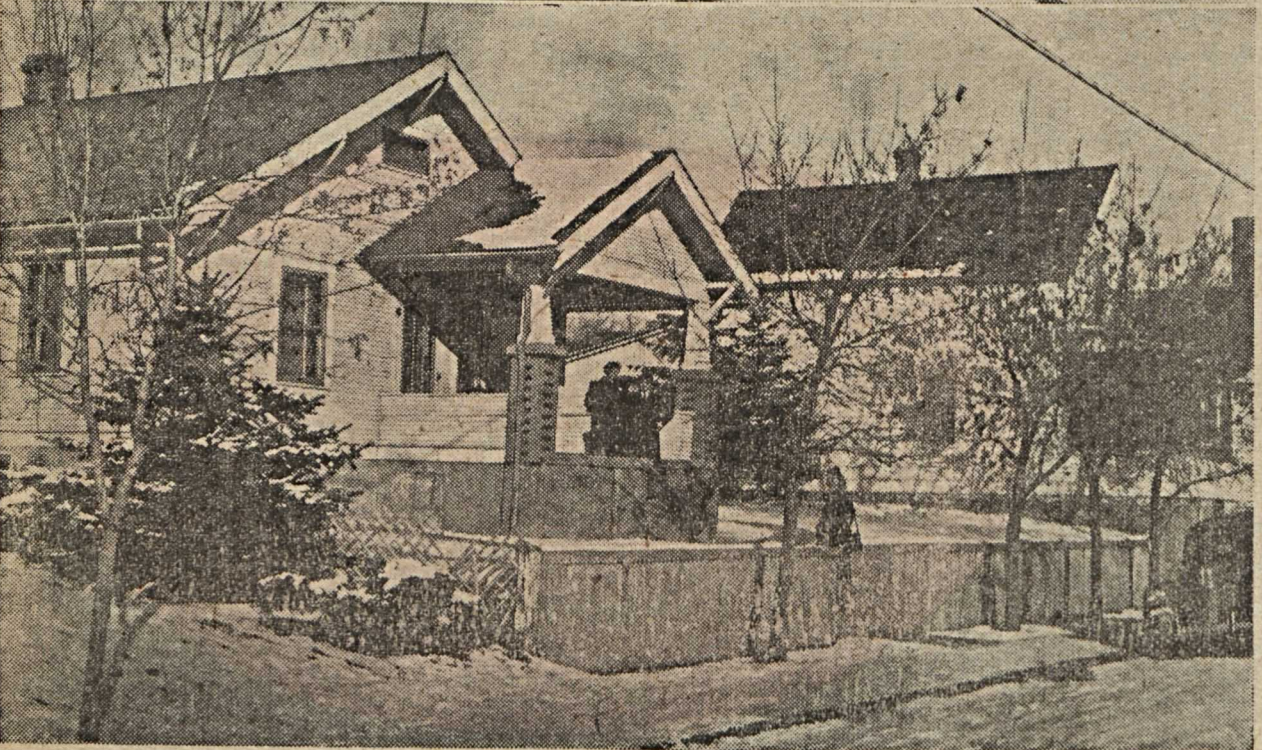
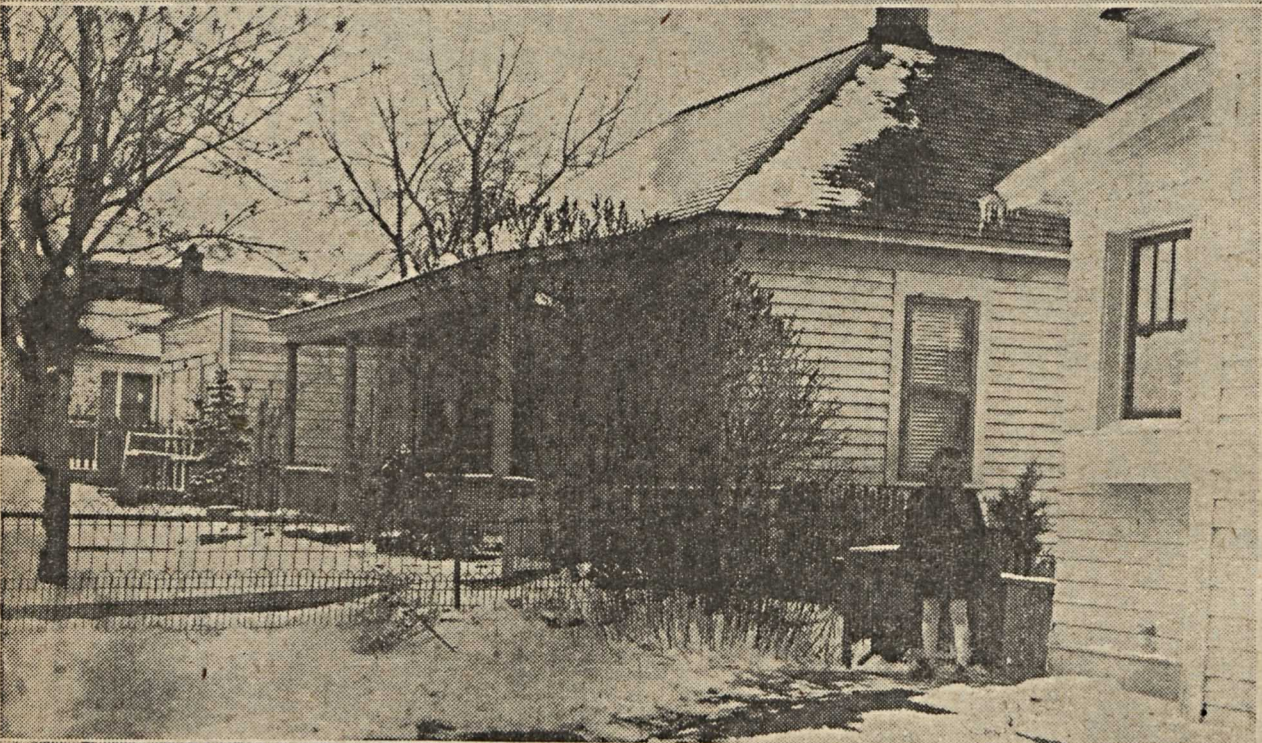
Copper Commando

Presents

BLACK EAGLE

A Community Story

APRIL 27, 1945



BLACK EAGLE

Black Eagle, where many of the men from the Great Falls Reduction Works live, once was a barren flat. Today it's a neat, homelike community where you'd like to live yourself amid pleasant surroundings.



AT the turn of the century there were two communities at Great Falls, one known as Little Chicago and the other as Little Milwaukee. Little Milwaukee was on the site of the Electric Tram pond on Company property at Great Falls, and there were between four hundred and five hundred people living there.

At that time a scattered handful of workers lived with their families in Little Chicago along an unpaved street known as Smelter Avenue not far from the Smelter.

But the expansion of the Reduction Works made it necessary that the homes in Little Milwaukee be moved. Some of the homes were abandoned; many were moved physically to Little Chicago. That's when Little Chicago started slowly to grow.

Today Little Chicago has become Black Eagle, a part of the city of Great Falls across the Missouri River. It has come a long way from the days when the school kids met in a small frame building under the guidance of Fannie B. Collins, where workers from the Smelter waded ankle-deep in mud on unpaved streets, when housewives had to carry their water for cooking and washing.

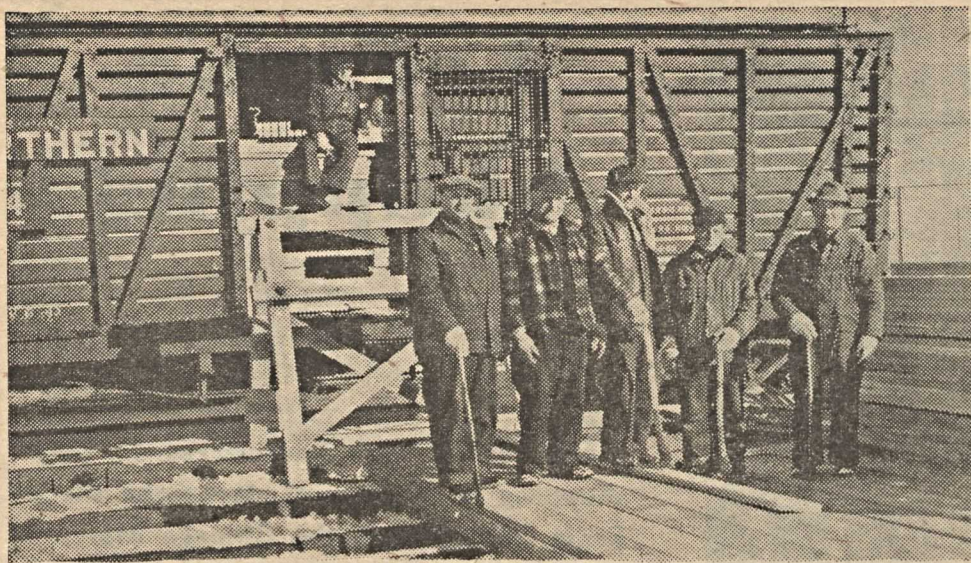
In 1901 there were residences only on the south side of Smelter Avenue; now there are homes in Black Eagle on both sides of Smelter Avenue (this is the main street of Black Eagle), on the north and south sides of Colorado and on the north and south sides of Montana Avenue, in addition to what is known as the Burlingame Addition.

Black Eagle is growing today north and west.

It is a compact little community which is a great tribute to the home-loving instincts of its people. For most of these homes, many of them white and shining, were built by smeltermen and craftsmen themselves. The old tar-paper roof type of shack has long since gone. The homes today are modern, with many conveniences. Here at the left we see a few random scenes of various streets in Black Eagle taken only a short time ago.

The community boasts an active church—the Blessed Sacrament Church; a busy civic club, a fine school, a volunteer fire department and many social and educational activities.

They say the name Black Eagle came about when one day, many years ago, a black eagle was seen on an island below what is now known as Black Eagle Falls in the Missouri River.



At left, a group of Black Eagle residents on the job: Dante Vangelisti, George Stanich, Fernando

Muzzana, Dan Guerra and Matt Kralich. John Christnack is in the car. At right, Matt Muretta,

Bob Palagi and Leonard Gray in the Low Line garage. They, too, are Black Eagle residents.



COPPER COMMANDO

Vol. III

April 27, 1945

No. 18

An Issue Devoted

to

BLACK EAGLE

COPPER COMMANDO is the official newspaper of the Victory Labor-Management Production Committees of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company and its Union Representatives at Butte, Anaconda, Great Falls and East Helena, Montana. It is issued every two weeks . . . COPPER COMMANDO is headed by a joint committee from Labor and Management, its policies are shaped by both sides and are dictated by neither . . . COPPER COMMANDO was established at the recommendation of the War Department with the concurrence of the War Production Board. Its editors are Bob Newcomb and Marg Sammons; its safety editor is John L. Boardman; its chief photographer is Al Gusdorf; its staff photographer is Les Bishop . . . Its Editorial Board consists of: Denis McCarthy, CIO; John F. Bird, AFL; Ed Renouard, ACM, from Butte; Dan Byrne, CIO; Joe Marick, AFL; C. A. Lemmon, ACM, from Anaconda; Jack Clark, CIO; Herb Donaldson, AFL, and E. S. Bardwell, ACM, from Great Falls. . . . COPPER COMMANDO is mailed to the home of every employee of ACM in the four locations—if you are not receiving your copy advise COPPER COMMANDO at 112 Hamilton Street, Butte, or better still, drop in and tell us. This is Vol. 3, No. 18.

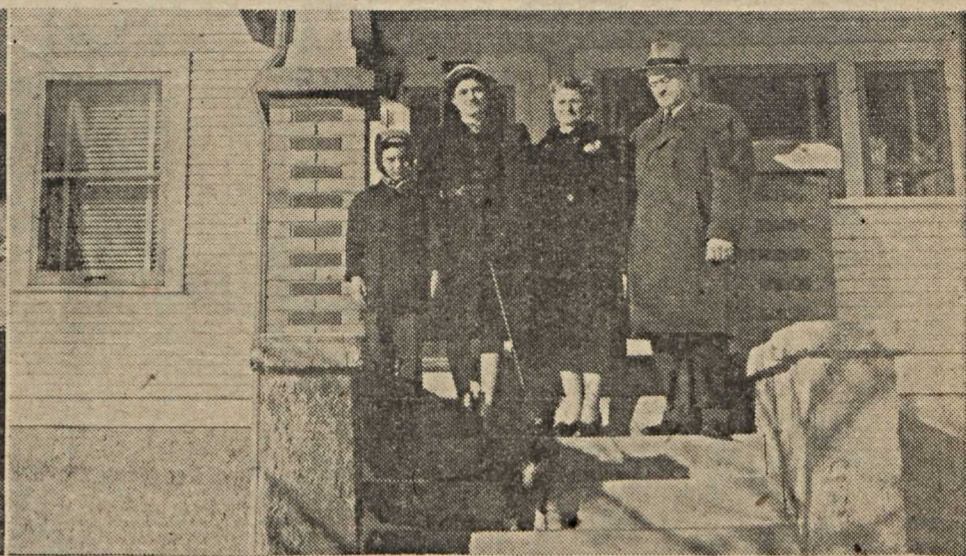
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The photos in this issue were taken by J. T. Mulcahy, Great Falls Photo View Company



At left, machinist James Edseth with his wife. Jim has been at the Smelter for over thirty-five



years. At right, Arthur Grasseschi, "mayor" of Black Eagle, with his wife, daughter and grand-

son. You will read more about Arthur on page 9. Here you see him at home.

Let's Go Shopping



Black Eagle's busy housewives do their shopping at three local stores—the Black Eagle Commercial, the Chicago Mercantile and the Cor Store, where Black Eagle's post office is located. These are the gathering places where the news of the day is talked over. Come along with us on a tour of these interesting shops and get acquainted with some of the Black Eagle folks whom we ran across.



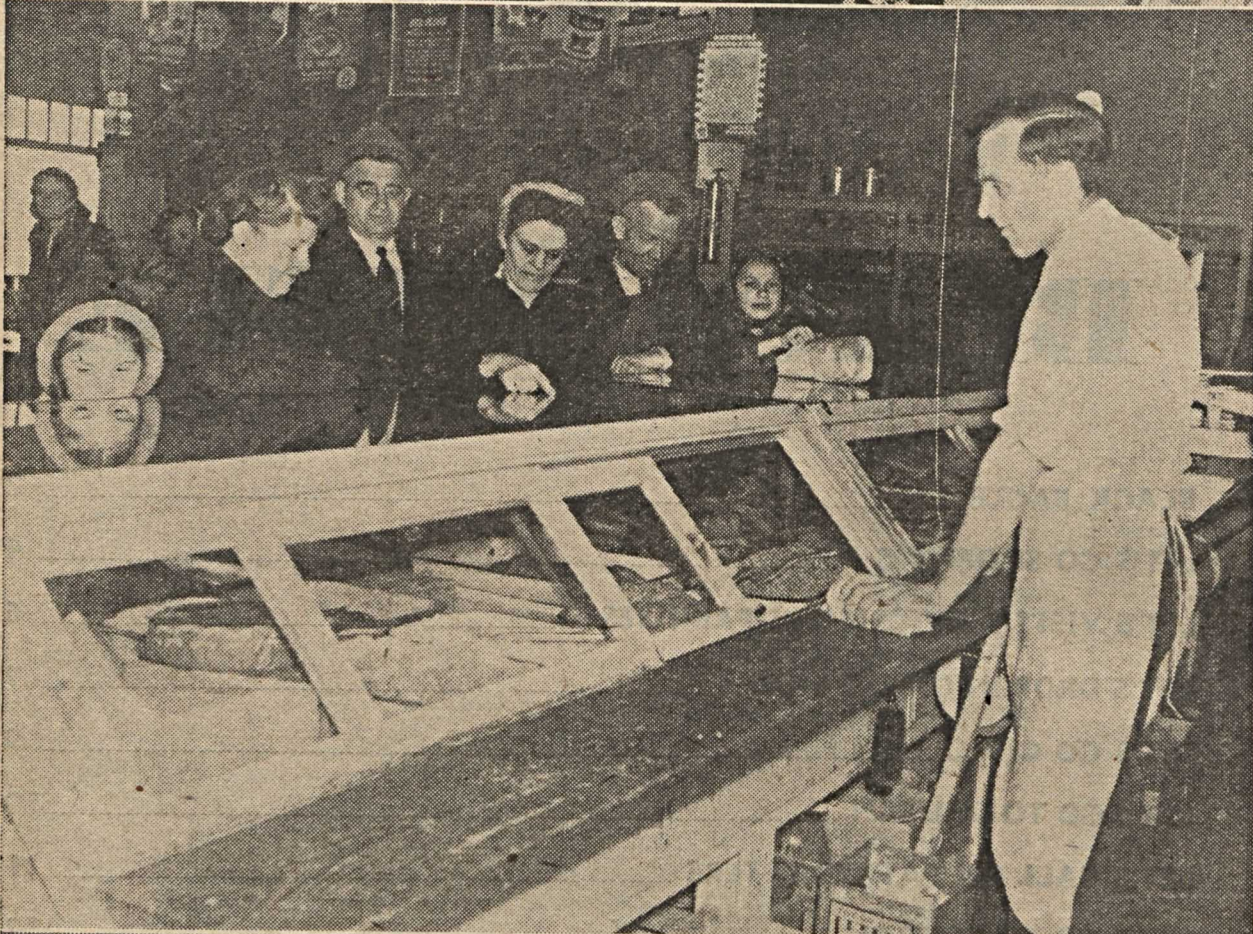
IT seems surprising to the visitor to find a community no larger than Black Eagle supporting three good-sized general stores. But that's the fact, and the stores carry a large stock of merchandise. Not only that, but Black Eagle has its own post office located in the Cor Store, where August Cor, the postmaster, has been on the job since 1917. He has been a Black Eagle resident for forty-five years.

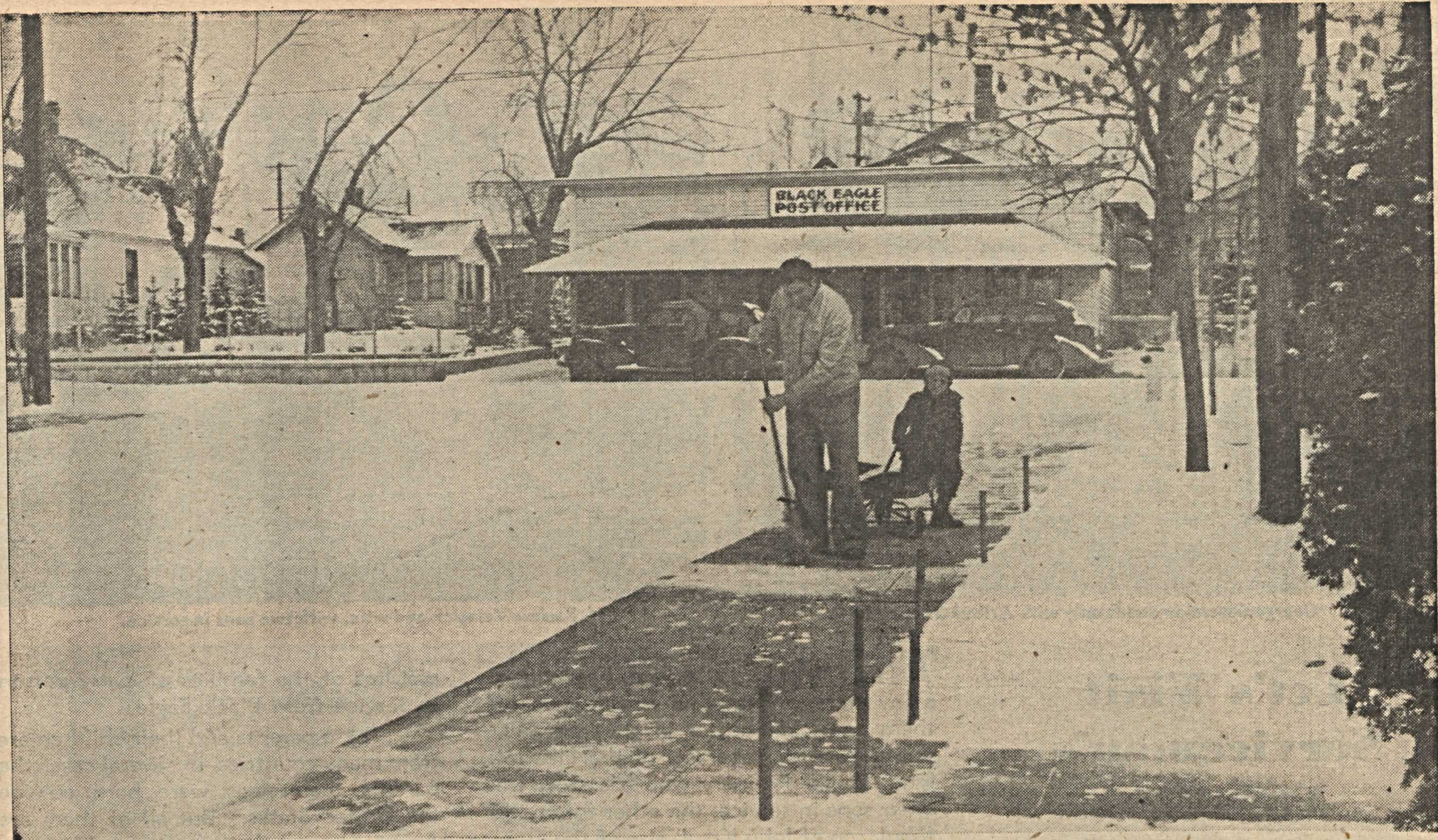
The women of Black Eagle are great housewives and wonderful cooks. They have a reputation throughout the section, practically all of them, for preparing fine meals. According to Miss Fannie B. Collins, the beloved ex-principal for whom Hawthorne School has been renamed, Black Eagle housewives are as competent and as friendly as you will find anywhere in the world.

While the women like to gather for a visit at the stores, you are more apt to find the men either at the Civic Club, which meets in the Croatian Hall, or in the barber shop of Bill Ellis. Bill has had his shop there for twenty-eight years, and he has one hundred twenty pictures of Black Eagle boys and girls in service on his wall. We took a picture of Bill in his shop, but the camera shutter was frozen from the twenty degree temperature outside and the picture just didn't come out. Nils Odegard and Steve Stanich were in the shop at the time.



ON this page and on the opposite page are various store scenes around Black Eagle. Your editors found the proprietors of these establishments most friendly and cooperative and the customers themselves were the same way. The three pictures at left, from top to bottom, show scenes in the Chicago Mercantile, the Black Eagle Commercial and the Cor Store where the post office is located. Mr. Cor is at the left.





Here's a street scene in Black Eagle taken on a Sunday morning, when the thermometer was

down well below zero. But cold weather doesn't keep Black Eagle residents from sweeping their

sidewalks clean, or the youngsters from getting out in the fresh air and playing in the snow.



These are random shots of patrons at Black Eagle stores. In the left picture, the man in the fore-



ground is George Stanich, an old-time smelter-man. Over at the right the folks are getting their

mail. There are two hundred forty boxes here, and there's sure to be Black Eagle folks around.



These Saturday afternoon scenes at the Black Eagle Commercial and the Chicago Mercantile



show shoppers laying in the food for Sunday dinner. For a close-up view of a typical Black Eagle

family preparing and having their Sunday dinner, visit the Vangelists on pages 14-15 of this issue.



George Osterman and family with Arthur Grasseschi.



Kuzma Velacich and wife, with two sons in service.

Let's Visit Servicemen's Families



Black Eagle has given more than one hundred forty of its sons and daughters to the Armed Services. Here we visit a few of the families of local boys and girls now in uniform.



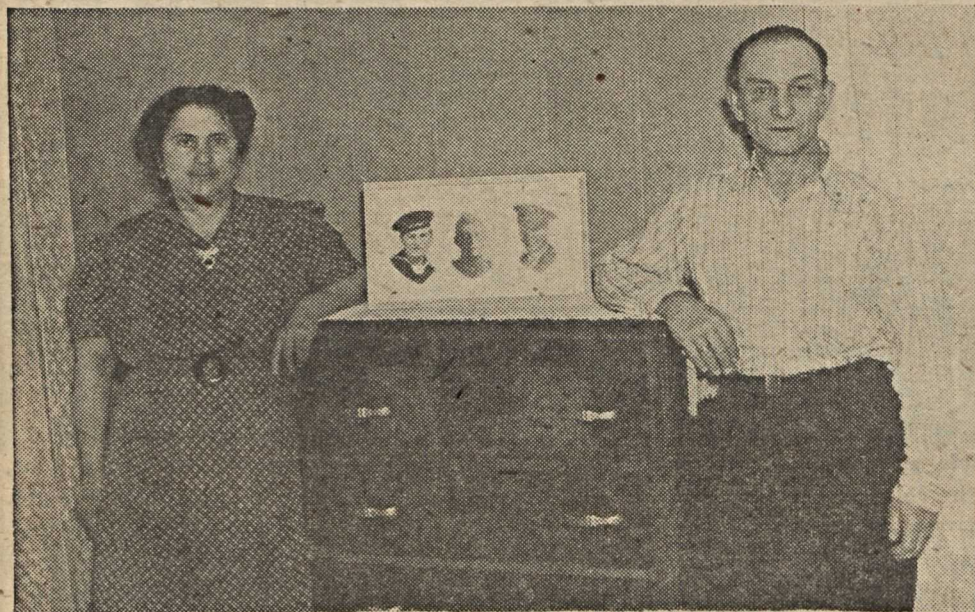
THE Black Eagle service flag shows many stars, and at this writing two of them are gold—one for Jacob Tabaracci, son of Charles Tabaracci of the Electrolytic Copper Refinery who has still two other sons in service, the other for Frank Krsul, son of John Krsul, also of the Electrolytic Copper Refinery.

On this page, your editors show a few of the parents of these folks in service. Please notice that in each case we have attempted to group these good friends of ours around the pictures of their boys and girls in service that are today to be found in so many homes. We only wish it were possible for us to show

pictures of the families of every person in service from Black Eagle.

These parents and their children are from many countries—in several cases the parents themselves were born outside the United States. But all of them are American, and their sons and daughters are giving the best they've got for the land of their adoption.

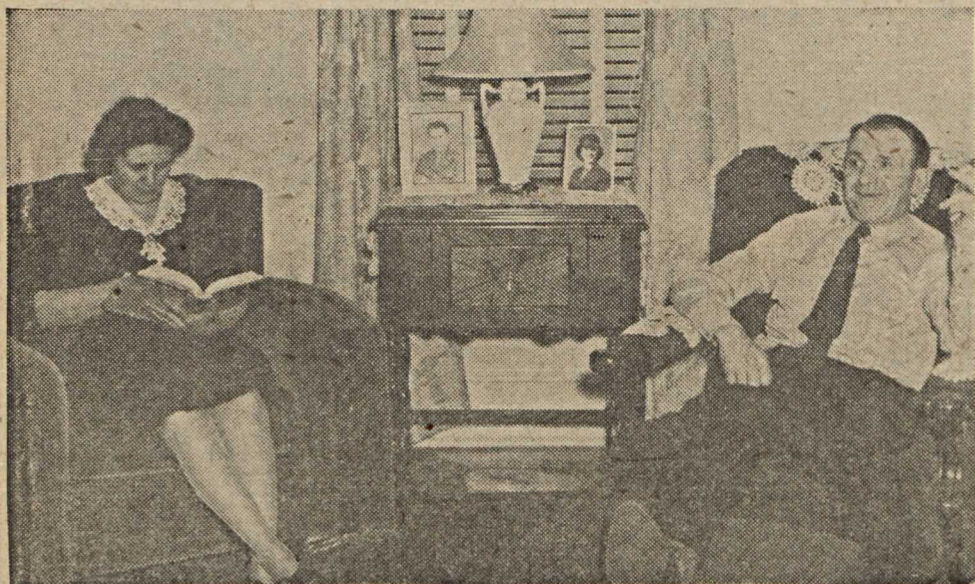
As you walk along Black Eagle streets in the early dusk you will see service flags in many windows, for Black Eagle has done and is doing its share. Come visit these fine people with us. They are part of the vast backbone of America.



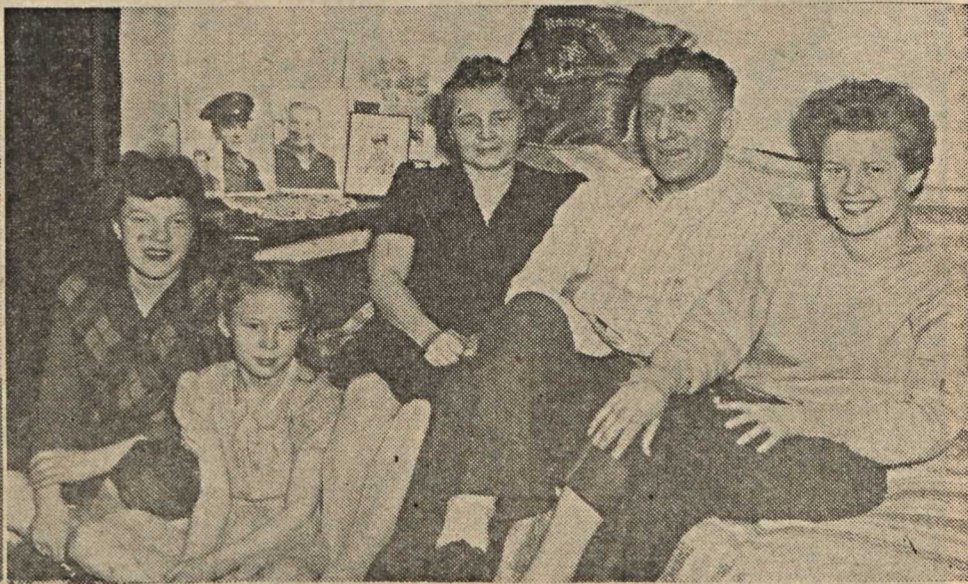
The Joe Palagis with a son in the Army and one in the Navy.



Mrs. Mary Kralich whose three sons are Army Sergeants.



The Bob Palagis with a son and daughter in service.



The Bill Kohles boast three sons and a son-in-law in service.

Let's Drop in on Ike Moe



A veteran Black Eagle resident and a veteran employee at the Reduction Works is Ike Moe, who has passed his fifty-year service mark. No picture story about Black Eagle could be complete without a visit to the home of Ike, who came from Norway in 1891. Here's Ike at home with his wife, his son Roy, and his son-in-law Joe Fagenstrom.



Son-in-law Joe, with the newspaper, is going over the headlines with Ike and his wife in the living

room of their home. That's Ike at the right, smoking his pipe while he discusses the war headlines.



Here at the left we catch Ike having a chuckle at something Fibber McGee has just said. Ike's favorite publications are Life and Copper Com-



mando. Out in the kitchen Ike lends a willing hand to his wife cleaning up the dinner dishes. He doesn't like to do them, Mrs. Moe says, but

after forty-six years he's gotten into the habit. Below, Joe, Roy and the Moes are shown enjoying a friendly game of cards at the dining room table.



IKE MOE runs an engine at the Electrolytic Copper Refinery and he has seen the Great Falls Reduction Works and Black Eagle practically from the beginning. He has been married for nearly forty-seven years to Hilma Moe, who crochets and cans lots of fruit in the summer. Joe Fagenstrom married Myrtle, the Moes' daughter, and they have three children, two of them in the service. Roy Moe, who runs the newsstand next to the Liberty Theater in Great Falls, is well-known to all Great Falls residents. The Moes have two other sons and eight grandchildren.

On this page your editors show the results of a visit with Ike and his wife and Roy and Joe. Joe drops over occasionally to discuss the current war news and, after they have brought themselves up to date on the latest Allied victories, they may gather at the dining room table for a game of cards. Ike likes the radio and it is hard to pry him away from Fibber McGee and Molly and Amos 'n Andy which are his favorites.



BUILDING TOGETHER

GREAT cities become great because the people in them pull together to make them so. Great armies become great because every man in it has a job to do and he gets it done.

Black Eagle at the turn of the century was a flat expanse of emptiness, broken up by only a few crude shacks. Today, while it is still struggling for perfection, it is a community of several hundred people who have taken great pride in building something out of nothing. Everybody has pitched in and done his share.

The Black Eagle Civic Club is an example of what people can do when they get together. It was organized only in 1940 but since then, it has installed street markers and assigned numbers to the homes and business establishments. It was instrumental in the extension of the sewage system with water furnished by the Anaconda Company to include Montana Avenue and Burlingame Addition, the organization of a garbage collection system, the oiling of streets and avenues, graveling of alleys and a new drainage system to replace worn-out wooden culverts. The Club has headed all six War Bond drives in Black Eagle and participated in Red Cross and Community Chest drives. Yet the people behind this serve without recognition or without pay—they work for the community good. Only a few steps away Reverend Father Peters watches over the destinies of the Blessed Sacrament Church. He came to Black Eagle ten years ago and has been a fine and helpful influence in the community. His great specialty is the training of young voices for choir singing, but he does a vast amount of good in many other ways.

The school activities, the church work, the various social groups in the section—all of these contribute to building the fine American community.

In the evenings and on their days off, many of the men of Black Eagle take pride in puttering around their homes and fixing them up and making them even more livable than they are. The women are busy with crocheting and knitting, with making articles for the Red Cross, with canning and preserving. These good people stick together and work together for the common good of their community.

BLACK EAGLE

People and Places

EVERYWHERE you go in Black Eagle you meet friendly and interesting people. Most of them are men from the Smelter or their families. One of the families we visited was the Panciches. The father, Tom Pancich, worked at the Smelter for about thirty years and has a son, Frank J. (who is shown in the picture below with his father and mother), who is rounding out his fifteenth year at the Zinc Plant Carpenter Shop. Tom retired in 1940. He



Here's Frank Pancich with his mother and father.

and his wife have nine children, nineteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, which is quite a family. The Panciches have lived in the same house since 1904 and on February 8, 1942, they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

We enjoyed particularly our trip to the Fannie B. Collins School (it used to be called the Hawthorne School but it is now named after the lovable principal who retired two years ago).

One of the things that tickled us most was the youngsters in the first grade, which is taught by Miss Susan Miller. For their drawing class, the youngsters use large pieces of paper laid on the floor for drawing with chalk. In order to keep their clothing clean, the kids put on

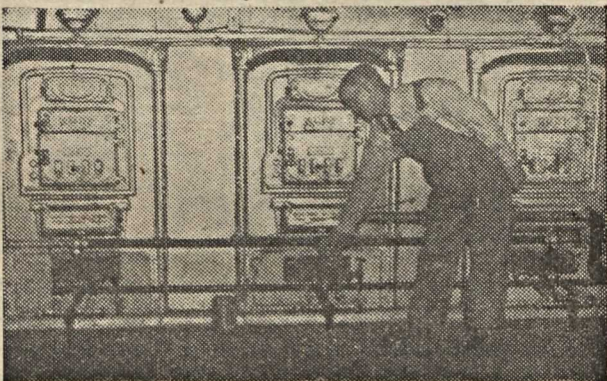
shirts backwards; then they can roll all over and their clothes won't get dirty.



Mrs. John Plovnich, her two babies, niece pose.

We show here a typical Black Eagle housewife with her children; you see them in their homes, on the way to the store, chatting on the corner, and in every way living wholesome and useful American lives.

We heard so many nice things about Erlin Beckman, who is the janitor at the Fannie B. Collins School, that we insisted on getting a picture of him. Mrs. Button, the principal, was high in her praise of Mr. Beckman, who not only keeps the school itself clean as a pin, but



Erlin Beckman, janitor, Fannie B. Collins school.

who also has a wonderful way with the youngsters. They all like him very much and he certainly knows how to get along. That's Erlin in the picture above.



Susan Miller with her first grade pupils.

Let's Go Civic

The affairs of Black Eagle are administered by the Black Eagle Civic Club, a group of go-getters who have great pride in their community. Here you have a chance to see and to meet the boys.

BEHIND any community are the people themselves. The more interested the citizens are in their city, the better the city is going to be.

At Black Eagle the Civic Club was organized in 1940 (as its letterhead puts it, "For the betterment of Black Eagle"). Its officers work endlessly for civic improvement.

The present officers are: Harry Landgren, president; Paul Tinelli, vice-president; Anton Antonich, treasurer; Nick J. Cassun, corresponding secretary; George Cassun, recording secretary; Rudolph Karlovich, entertainment. The Executive Board consists of Arthur Grasseschi, Matt Muretta, Phillip Porro, Hector Langhi, George Kalafat and Thomas P. Grasseschi.

On this page we show you three of the groups which help make up the Black Eagle Civic Club, meeting in the hall which was furnished through the efforts of the members and the Anaconda Company and which is available to the entire community.

No comment on Black Eagle would be complete without mention of Arthur Grasseschi, unofficially but fondly known as the "mayor" of Black Eagle. Copper Commando owes him a special debt for piloting its editors around Black Eagle. He is one of the real pioneers of Black Eagle.

MEET THE MAYOR



The officers of the Civic Club, l. to r.: Arthur Grasseschi, Rudy Karlovich, Paul Tinelli, Nick Cassun, Harry Landgren, George Cassun, Hector Langhi, George Kalafat, Matt Muretta and Anton Antonich.



Black Eagle has a Volunteer Fire Department, organized twenty years ago. L. to r.: Matt Muretta, Romeo Ranieri, Matt Taras, George Osterman, John Guerra, Paul Tinelli, Fred Tabaracci and Bill Dorich.



Croatia Brotherhood officers meet at the Civic Center each month. L. to r.: Gus Tuss, Kuzma Velacich, Vinco Parach, John Ugrin, Vincent Arbanas, George Kalafat, Matt Antonich and Joe Krajacich.



Let's Go To Church



The religious life of Black Eagle revolves around the Blessed Sacrament Church, and the fine personality of Reverend Father Peters. A Belgian by birth, he has devoted the past ten years to strengthening the community life of the people of Black Eagle. The folks there think the world of him—and he of them.

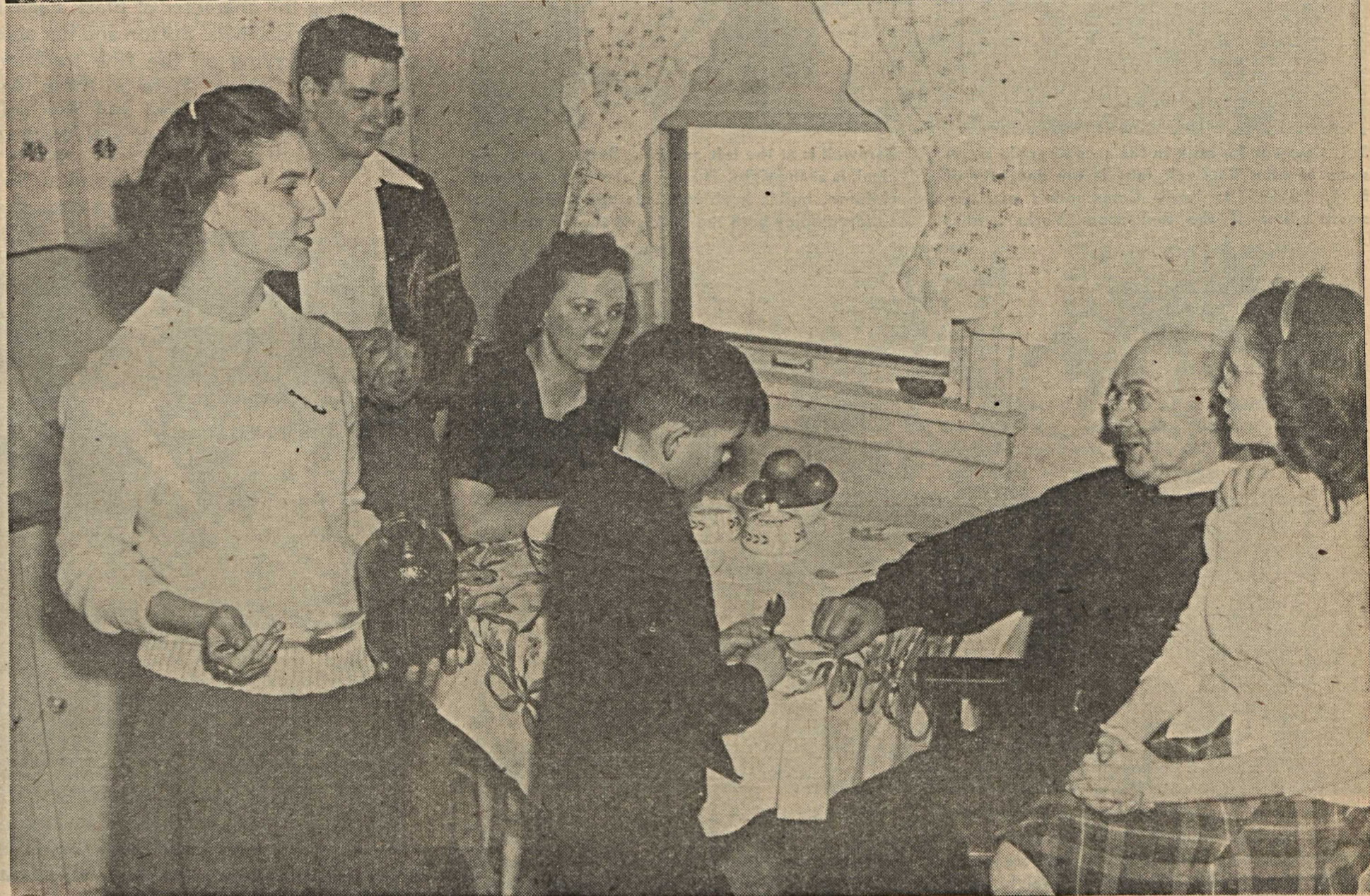


THE people of Black Eagle are good church-goers. This is due to a deep religious conviction aided by the fine personality of Father Peters. He has brought the people of the community together in many ways.

Father Peters' greatest delight is in the training of his choirs and on these pages we show first the church of Father Peters and many of his parishioners as well as pictures of Father Peters in his parish house with his young music pupils. They are Charlotte and Dorothy Sirola, Dave Vangelisti, Joyce Keenan and Gordon Bistodeau. Gordon is a younger brother of Wally Bistodeau, now in the Army at Fort Sill, and a former pupil of Father Peters for whom great promise is held. On the opposite page you can see the group listening to one of Wally's recordings. Adeline Sieben, pianist, could not appear the day your editors were there. After the practice is over, the youngsters prepare a light lunch.



LET'S CALL ON FATHER PETERS



Let's Go to School



One of the brightest spots in Copper Commando's tour of Black Eagle was the Fannie B. Collins School. Here the children of the smeltermen are being educated. On these two pages we visit them.



It is reading hour in the classroom of Miss Miller. These youngsters are from the first and second grades and they are listening as Miss Miller tells them a story. It was no job at all for your pho-

tographer to get these interesting group pictures, for the children were intensely interested and made fine subjects for the Commando camera man as you can see from the picture itself.



It is time out for milk in the second grade classroom of Miss Bardwell (she is the daughter of E. S. "Bard" Bardwell, Commando's management editor at the Reduction Works). Miss

Bardwell is at the left and Mrs. Button, the principal, is at the right. This milk, served daily to the children, builds healthy minds and bodies. The children enjoy both the milk and the "time out."



The weight of growing children is important, and here in the Recreation Room at the school, the children are being weighed in. An accurate record is kept of each child's height and weight, with

Miss Williams keeping the chart. The girl shown on the scales is Marlene Grasseschi, the granddaughter of Arthur Grasseschi, "the mayor of Black Eagle," who took us around the community.



Marie A. Button, principal of the Fannie B. Collins school, shown at her desk at the school.



Fannie B. Collins, beloved principal, now retired, sets the table for luncheon at her home.

THE Fannie B. Collins School, under the direction of Mrs. Button, has many progressive activities. The children learn to draw, paint and to keep themselves physically fit. Dancing, for example, is part of the regular schedule at the school. Folk dancing, so popular among the people of the community, is particularly enjoyed by the children.

The recreation rooms are large, well lighted and airy, and the library is stocked with many good, interesting books.

Having done her great job, Miss Collins takes pride in reviewing the many busy and enjoyable years she spent at the school (your editors visited her at her delightful apartment in Great Falls and spent several hours with her). Miss Collins keeps busy; she works at the U. S. O. on Saturdays; she is a member of the Flower Growers' Club; she belongs to the D. A. R. where she is chairman of Indian Affairs and last year she held sixteen exhibits of her famous doll collection. She has crocheted 171 baby bonnets and donated them to the Red Cross and she meets with her church circle at the Methodist Church every two weeks.

Miss Collins has lived and is living a fruitful and wonderful life.



Here the bright-eyed youngsters of Black Eagle's smeltermen get a glimpse of many lands through the school stereoscopes. This is a regular part of the program in the classroom of Miss Bardwell,

shown at rear, and the kids really enjoy it. The walls in Miss Bardwell's room are covered with paintings and drawings of her talented little pupils as shown on the blackboard in the rear.

LET'S LOOK IN ON CLASS ROOMS



Music and dancing are part of the regular program, and the kids really get a kick out of it. At the left rear is Miss Burud, who teaches the sixth grade and art for the fourth, fifth and sixth.

Miss Burud enjoys these sessions just as much as the youngsters do, if not more. A phonograph provides folk dance and marching music for these programs, which furnish so much pleasure.



Here, at the left, is another view of Miss Williams checking the weights and heights of the Collins school children. The library, which is on



the second floor, is a gathering place for the youngsters looking up reference books—you have a view of it in the picture at the right.



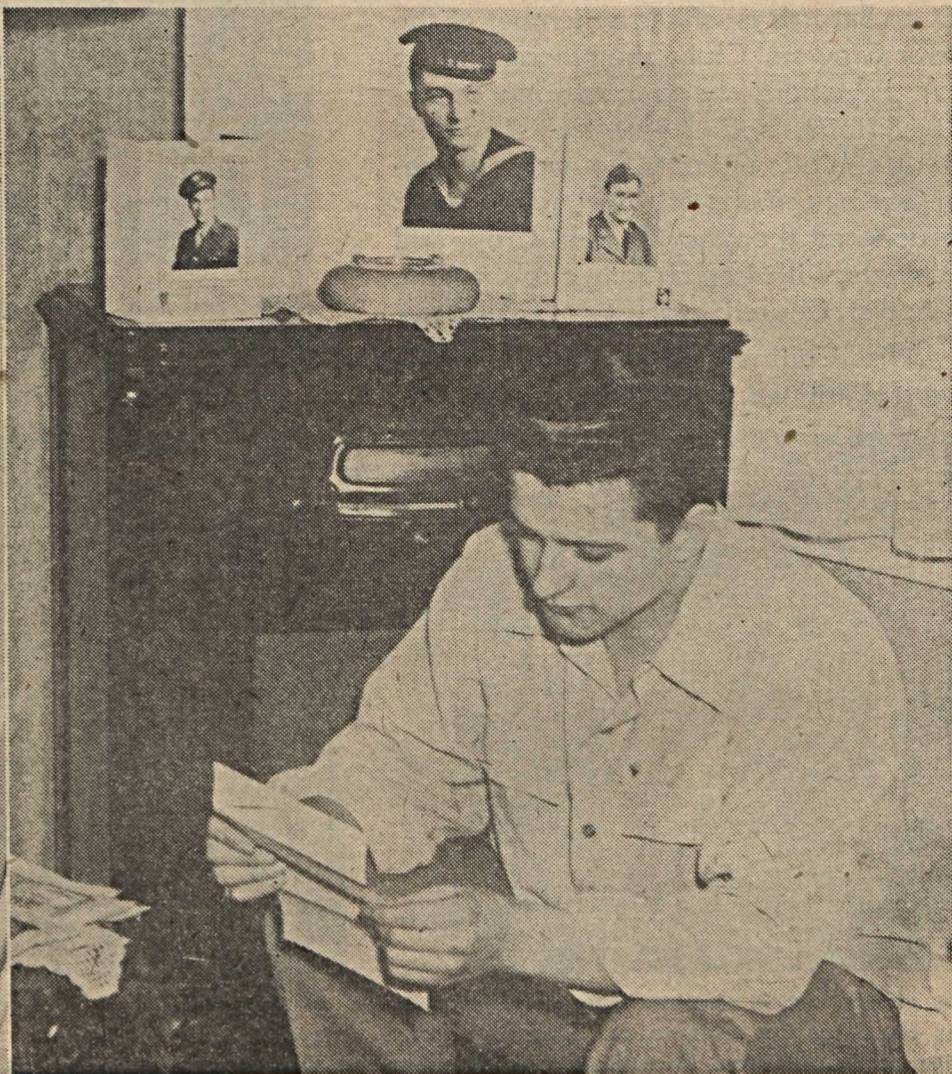
Across the hall is a small but efficient first aid room. Here medical and dental examinations are given the children periodically to keep them fit.



LET'S HAVE SUNDAY DINNER

Black Eagle folks like good food, and Black Eagle wives and mothers know how to cook it. Here we visit the fine Vangelisti family, where your editors shared as fine ravioli as they ever tasted and washed it down with wonderful home-made wine. This is the home of

Dante Vangelisti, his wife and three children. Dante started at the Furnace Refinery in 1918 and is president of the Italian-American Society. Come along with us as we visit the Vangelistis, a typical Black Eagle family, on that great American occasion—Sunday dinner.





In the small picture in the upper left on the opposite page Marg Sammons visits with Mrs. Vangelisti, her daughter Clare, and a neighbor boy, Ronnie White. There we find also Dave reading a letter, Mrs. Vangelisti busy with the appetizing ravioli, and the two daughters, Clare and Eileen,

setting the table for mother. Here on this page the meal progresses with Mrs. Vangelisti opening up a jar of preserves and Dante, comfortable in his easy chair, going through the Sunday paper. In the bottom picture, the foods on! Over at the left, where you can't see them, Bob Newcomb

and Marg Sammons are tucking away huge platters of excellent ravioli themselves. And was it good! Not only does Mrs. Vangelisti make delicious ravioli but she cans hundreds of quarts of fruit and vegetables each summer. A large share of the canned vegetables come from their garden.





The copper wire bars leave Great Falls for the brass mills and the fighting fronts.

AND IT ALL ADDS UP TO THIS:

THERE you have Black Eagle. We couldn't show you, because space doesn't permit, everybody who lives there; we could not visit, as we wanted to, all the families who have given their sons and daughters to the fighting forces of Uncle Sam. We could not show all the men on the job. But we do hope that we have been able to give you, in some small measure at least, an idea of what a fine community Black Eagle really is.

That is the background but it all adds up to this: Day in day out, month in month out, the husbands and fathers of Black Eagle are giving their very best for Uncle Sam. As producers of copper, zinc and other essential metals, they are

speeding the products of the Butte mines and the Anaconda and Great Falls Departments to the fighting fronts all over the world.

These people have built their community of Black Eagle and they are justly proud of it. Many have built their homes with their own hands. They live American lives, no matter from what country they came, and they give their sons and daughters to the country of their adoption. And when the call comes to them to get solidly behind the war effort, they dig in and work.

And that's what it all adds up to. It adds up to America, and that should be enough for any of us.